

Hunston Parish Meeting

Treasurer's report for year ended 31 March 2026

1 Summary

- The Parish Meeting generated a **cash surplus** of **£5,621.51** for the year (2025: surplus of £5,338.90).
- Income for the year was **£11,879.94** (2025: £11,638.82).
- Income comprised rent of £11,371.03 and interest of £508.91.
- Expenditure during the year fell into four main categories – see the accounts for a more detailed breakdown.

▪ Cottage overheads:	£4,023.76
▪ Parish insurance:	£756.46
▪ General Parish costs:	£460.78
▪ Events (92% was the VE day party):	£1,017.43
▪ TOTAL:	£6,258.43 (2025: £6,299.92)
- Net Current Assets were **£37,495.36** (2025: £31,884.57)
- Cash reserves on 31st March were **£37,950.80** (2025: £32,329.29)
- The Reserves Committee has taken steps to improve our interest income, without reducing the security of our deposits. Over 80% of our money is now deposited with the Hinkley & Rugby Building Society (HRBS); the rest remains with HSBC, our clearing bank. The interest rates paid by HRBS are higher than those offered by HSBC.
- All our money is protected by the Government backed Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

2 The Cottage

- The cottage has been let since July 2022; the current rent is £11,340 pa.
- During the year, expenditure was for management, insurance, normal maintenance and some tree surgery.
- NOTE: If the cottage were to be unlet, the Parish could incur a deficit of approximately £5,000 per annum, raising the possibility of levying a Precept if reserves are exhausted.

3 Statutory requirements:

3.1 Decisions to be taken:

The four resolutions we need to consider are:

1. Do we agree that the accounts fairly present the financial position of the Parish Meeting for the year ended 31 March 2026?
2. Do we agree that we approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (Paragraph 4, below)?
3. Do we certify that, as we satisfy the qualifying criteria and as our annual gross income and gross expenditure for the year to 31 March 2026 was respectively £25,000 or less, Hunston Parish Meeting is exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and hence that we authorise the completion and signing of the Certificate of Exemption?
4. That the commencement date for the exercise of public rights be set as Monday 8th June 2026 and that from that date until Friday 17th July 2026 inclusive the accounts and accounting records will be available for public inspection.

3.2 Audit and Governance

- Under current statutory arrangements, PKF Littlejohn LLP is our appointed External Auditor.
- However, as neither our income nor our expenditure exceeds £25,000 pa, and subject to some other qualifying criteria (see Paragraph 5 below) we can declare ourselves exempt from the need for an external audit (which would cost at least £200).
- The Parish Meeting will still conduct an Internal Audit, which is undertaken by an independent trusted examiner after the accounts have been approved by the Parish Meeting.
- The Parish Meeting must also approve an Annual Governance Statement (see Paragraph 4 below) and allow the exercise of certain public rights (see Paragraph 6 below).

4 Annual Governance Statement

In approving the Annual Governance Statement, we are confirming to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

- 1) We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.
- 2) We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.
- 3) We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this Parish Meeting to conduct its business or manage its finances.
- 4) We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 5) We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this Parish Meeting and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.
- 6) We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.
- 7) We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.
- 8) We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this Parish Meeting and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.

5 The Qualifying Criteria

The qualifying criteria for us to declare the PM as exempt from External Audit are:

- 1) The parish has no Parish Council.
- 2) The Parish Meeting has been in existence since before 1 April 2018.
- 3) In relation to the preceding financial year (2024/25), the external auditor has not:
 - a) issued a public interest report in respect of the Parish Meeting or any entity connected with it;
 - b) made a statutory recommendation to the Parish Meeting;
 - c) issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act") and not withdrawn the notice;
 - d) commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act;

- e) made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration.
- 4) The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.
- 5) The Parish Meeting neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000.

6 Exercise of Public Rights

- 1) The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Meeting, must set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights.
- 2) From the commencement date for a single period of thirty consecutive working days, the approved accounts and accounting records can be inspected. Whatever period is set must include the first ten working days of July.
- 3) The Parish Meeting must publish the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, before 1 July 2026.